



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

3:00pm - 5:00pm

SEPTA Building, 1234 Market St., 17th Floor Board Room

Philadelphia, PA

ITEM	ACTION TAKEN	PAGE
A. CALL TO ORDER	Called to Order	2
B. ROLL CALL	Quorum Met	2-3
C. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES		
1. Anti-Hunger	Discussed	3
2. Food & Health	Discussed	3
3. Good Food Procurement	Discussed	4
4. Urban Agriculture	Discussed	4-5
5. Workforce & Economic Development	Discussed	5
6. Zero Waste	Discussed	5-6
D. WATER ACCESS IN SCHOOLS	Discussed	6-7
E. PUBLIC COMMENT	Discussed	7
F. FPAC ANNUAL REPORT CELEBRATION	Shared	7
G. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourn	7



A. CALL TO ORDER

Co-chairs Amy Laura Cahn and Sarah Wu called the general meeting of the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC) to order. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum was present to conduct official business.

Members Present

Amy Laura Cahn	Jill Fink	Juliane Schrader-Ortega
Saleem Chapman	Leah Lazer	Nicky Uy
Katrice Cheaton	Andy Marin	Jimmy Wilson
Stephanie Dorenbosch	George Matysik	Julie Zaebst
Donkey Dover	Tommy McCann	
Bryan Fenstermaker	Greg McKinley	

Ex-Officio Members Present

Liz Fitzgerald	Elisa Ruse-Esposito	Amanda Wagner
Ash Richards	Suzanna Urminska	Sarah Wu

Members Absent

Glenn Bergman	Ann Karlen	Tommy McCann
Patricia Blakely	Esteban Kelly	Herman Nyamunga
Allison Blansfield	Linda Knapp	Calvin Okunoye
Kathy Fisher	Nancy Kohn	Barbara Schneider
Alison Hastings	Jessica McAtamney	Dwayne Wharton

Others Present

Latisha Cate	Kim Labno	Daphne Rowe
Laura Crandall	Syraah Mason	Malyka Sankofa
Kelsey Decerchio	Java Miller	Daniel Shea
Gena Ellis	Katera Moore	Frances Simone
Janet Fleetwood	Taina Morales	Karen Stark
Iliana Franco	Olivia Ortiz	Miracle Townes
Adrian Glass	Hamil Pearsall	Minh Tran
Michelle Gross	Bob Pierson	Michael Ware
Amanda Hallock	Sarah Risley	Sanniyah White
Shana Jarvis	Judas Robbins	Alex Zaremba



FPAC Staff Present

Hannah Chatterjee, FPAC Manager

Madeline Smith-Gibbs, FPAC Coordinator

C. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

In lieu of presentation-style subcommittee updates, attendees participated in “subcommittee speed dating.” Over the course of three rounds, attendees met with subcommittee chairs for small group discussion of subcommittee updates.

1. Anti-Hunger

FPAC member and Anti-Hunger Co-Chair Andy Marin gave the subcommittee update.

Over the summer of 2016, Anti-Hunger partnered with the Food Access Collaborative and other stakeholders to coordinate food recovery during the Democratic National Convention (DNC). The DNC food recovery plan directed all food donations, whether from large events or small restaurants, through Food Connect, a volunteer-driven organization that picks up excess food and safely delivers it to emergency food providers. This level of coordination allowed organizers a birds-eye view of the donations in real time, ensuring that no single food pantry was overwhelmed with donation offers. Food Connect forwarded large donations to Philabundance or SHARE Food Program for pickup. Smaller donations, such as excess food from restaurants, were picked up by Food Connect volunteer drivers in personal vehicles.

Over the course of the eight days of the DNC, as 50,000 visitors descended on Philadelphia, the food recovery plan facilitated the collection of more than five tons of food, enough for 9,366 meals. The average donation size was 50 pounds. Anti-Hunger is looking forward to continuing to collaborate with its partners to ensure that food recovery in Philadelphia continues well after the convention.

For more information or to attend a meeting, please contact Co-Chairs [Steveanna Wynn](#) and [Andy Marin](#).

2. Food & Health

Food & Health Subcommittee member Shana Jarvis led the subcommittee update.

Philadelphia’s sugar-sweetened beverage tax, commonly known as the soda tax, passed in a 13-4 City Council vote in mid-June. The measure imposes a 1.5 cents per ounce tax on sugar-sweetened beverages and diet sodas, to be collected from distributors.

Food & Health has begun researching the issue of water access and quality in schools. Shana described the research and the subcommittee’s recommendations and solicited feedback from speed dating participants.

For more information or to attend a meeting, contact Co-Chairs [Kelly Courts](#) and [Dwayne Wharton](#).



3. Good Food Procurement

Good Food Procurement Subcommittee chair Amanda Wagner gave the subcommittee update.

The subcommittee is conducting final verification of its list of Good Food Caterers, to ensure that the information that caterers self-reported is correct. Good Food Procurement will then design and launch the guide in the fall. The subcommittee also plans to host a showcase event in which City department purchasers are invited to sample items from the businesses listed in the guide, and complete outreach with purchasers to promote the Good Food Caterers.

Good Food Procurement identified barriers in Philadelphia's procurement process that impede the City's ability to purchase food grown in the region. For example, the City's contracting process requires suppliers to estimate the cost of a food commodity six months in advance of when the City may or may not purchase that commodity, making it difficult for the City to purchase high quality food from a variety of producers and suppliers. The subcommittee conducted a policy scan to identify successful food procurement strategies from other municipalities. Building on that research, a Villanova Law School fellow analyzed the policies and made recommendations on the best approach for Philadelphia based on constraints from the Philadelphia City Code and the Procurement Department's capacity for changing regulations.

One option that has come out of the subcommittee's research is to "piggyback" on food contracts from the School District and other public entities, allowing the City more leeway to purchase good food while still being a good steward of the public dollar. Good Food Procurement will continue its research and will meet with potential local partners in the coming months.

If you are interested in participating in the Good Food Procurement Subcommittee, please contact Chair [Amanda Wagner](#).

4. Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture Co-Chair Ash Richards gave the subcommittee update.

The subcommittee was able to cross a longstanding item off of its work plan this summer when City Council voted to fully exempt community gardens from storm water fees. FPAC [submitted testimony](#) in support of the exemption, arguing that storm water fees are an ongoing barrier to success for community gardens, which provide storm water management in addition to a myriad of social, economic, and health benefits.

Urban Agriculture continues use the feedback from its February 2016 Open House to inform its priorities and is making progress on its 2016 work plan. The Brownfields Working Group, which oversees an Environmental Protection Agency grant to do environmental assessments on potential and existing urban agriculture, open space, and green storm water infrastructure land, reports that it starting Phase I assessments. The



subcommittee is also discussing its role in upcoming City Council hearings on urban agriculture, and laying the groundwork for a citywide urban agriculture policy.

Urban Agriculture meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in participating, please contact Co-Chairs [Nancy Kohn](#) and [Ash Richards](#).

5. Workforce & Economic Development

FPAC manager Hannah Chatterjee gave the subcommittee update.

Workforce & Economic Development is focusing on developing an infographic poster to explain Philadelphia's new paid sick leave law. The project aims to help employees understand what rights they are entitled to, and help employers understand their responsibility to their employees for tracking sick leave accrual.

The subcommittee found that the law was difficult to understand. For example, sick leave accrues differently depending on whether you are a wage, salaried, or tipped worker. The subcommittee mapped out three different infographics to help employees and employers understand what parts of the law applies to them, and is currently in the process of reviewing each version and developing a final product for review.

Workforce & Economic Development meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. Contact Chair [Calvin Okunoye](#) if you are interested in participating.

6. Zero Waste

FPAC Coordinator Madeline Smith-Gibbs gave the subcommittee update.

This summer, Zero Waste launched a pilot project in Philadelphia Parks and Recreation's (PPR) second district to recover excess food from PPR summer meals sites and deliver them to emergency food providers such as food pantries and soup kitchens. Running in parallel to the DNC food recovery effort (see Anti-Hunger update), the Summer Meals Food Recovery Pilot is testing a different strategy for widespread food recovery. The pilot program will conclude by the end of summer 2016, at which point the subcommittee can review data on the quantity, size, and location of donations and consider expanding the program to all PPR districts in summer 2017.

Following discussions with The Dirt Factory, a local composting facility, Zero Waste identified a need for a design for neighborhood-scale, in-vessel composting systems that could be used by schools and community composting organizations. This system would need to be rodent-proof, able to operate year-round in Philadelphia's climate, and simple enough to make long-term maintenance by a community organization feasible. Zero Waste decided to host a design competition and solicit ideas from local technical schools, engineering programs, environmental groups, and anyone else interested in participating. The subcommittee



convened a group of local composting experts to develop specifications for designs and is working with regional partners to promote, fund, and support the competition.

Zero Waste meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 4pm to 5pm. If you are interested in participating in the Zero Waste Subcommittee, please contact Chair [Linda Knapp](#).

D. WATER ACCESS IN SCHOOLS

FPAC Food & Health Subcommittee member Shana Jarvis presented on research and policy ideas related to water access and quality in schools.

The Food Trust, an FPAC partner, has been involved in this issue for over a year. Common themes in what The Food Trust has heard from students include:

- Access to fountains: Many schools don't provide the required one water fountain per 100 students, or the fountains might be broken or dirty.
- Appeal of water: Students say the water tastes bad and is warm, cloudy, and grey when you fill up a bottle.
- Safety: After high levels of lead were found in Flint, Michigan's water supply, many students and parents are concerned about water safety. Many schools have signs over the bathroom sinks warning people not to drink the water, leading to confusion about whether water from a fountain is safe to drink.

FPAC is joining ongoing work on this issue. Students have testified before the School Reform Commission and City Council about water access, and the School District's sustainability plan includes a focus area on healthy living and water access. The School District recently committed to installing "hydration stations" at every school, allocating \$1 million for three hydration stations and several years' of filters for every school.

Shana laid out potential recommendations FPAC could make, including:

- All schools meet the existing federal requirement to provide fresh drinking water during mealtimes in school food service areas at no cost to students.
- All schools meet the existing state plumbing code requirement to provide at least 1 fountain per 100 students, with no more than 50% fountains replaced with non-plumbed water sources.
- All drinking water should be palatable (acceptable color, odor, temperature and taste) and aesthetically pleasing (clean, well-maintained and desirable fountain or dispenser).
- All students should be allowed to bring refillable water containers to class.
- All students should be allowed to get up to get a drink of water during class time.
- Every drinking water outlet in schools should be tested for lead annually.
- Every drinking water outlet in schools should meet the EPA lead standards of 15 parts per billion or lower.
- There should be corrective action when lead levels are elevated.
- Final inspection reports should be provided to the school community and made public via the School District of Philadelphia's website.



Audience comment after the presentation included concern about contamination not being localized, a suggestion that FPAC recognize the role of zero-tolerance policies and punitive school cultures in water access, a call for teacher and principal buy-in to any policy solution, and debate about the extent to which water quality is a perception issue. FPAC co-chairs encouraged Food & Health to bring the Council a proposal for vote, noting broad interest in FPAC action.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

FPAC member Greg McKinley said he was glad water safety was being discussed, as children spend so much of their time in schools, and noted that water access in public parks is also important.

F. FPAC ANNUAL REPORT 2016 CELEBRATION

Attendees celebrated the launch of FPAC's Annual Report 2016.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

Submitted by:

Madeline Smith-Gibbs

madeline.smith-gibbs@phila.gov